

KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Friends of Kirstenbosch Newsletter

January 2011

Happy New Year to all our members!

News from the Kirstenbosch Branch Office at the Stone Cottages:

Kirstenbosch Branch awarded Molteno Gold Medal

The Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society was honoured by the Cape 300 Foundation on Thursday 2 December 2010 and awarded the Molteno Gold Medal at a function in the Old Town House in Cape Town. The award was made for exceptional services to the natural environment, and was one of five awarded to organisations this year out of over 90 nominations. The other recipients of the Gold Medal are The Handspring Puppet Company, Beau Soleil, The Grahamstown Foundation and The National English Language Museum.

The award was accepted by Peter Ryan, Chairman and Carol McNaughton, Branch Manager on behalf of the Members and hundreds of Volunteers who, for decades, have given of their time and expertise, and without whose dedicated assistance the Kirstenbosch Garden would not have survived. It has been accurately quantified that the annual value of volunteer services is R1,365m.

The Cape 300 Foundation was established by Ted and Harry Molteno in 1950 to encourage and promote literature, the visual and performing arts, and the natural and cultural environment of the Western, Eastern and Northern Capes. The Foundation annually disburses general financial grants, awards scholarships for post-Honours studies, and rewards the distinguished contributions of individuals and organisations in pursuit of these aims. The Molteno Medal was struck in 2000 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cape 300 Foundation and it commemorates the founders, Ted and Harry Molteno. Public nominations are adjudicated by the Council of the Cape 300 Foundation and awarded to individuals or organisations. For more information go to www.cape300foundation.org.za.

Our sincere thanks go to the Cape 300 Foundation for this special award and to all our Members and Volunteers who contribute so much to the Botanical Society and Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

Dorothy Malan awarded Honorary Life Membership

Our congratulations go to Dorothy Malan on being awarded an Honorary Life Membership by the Botanical Society of South Africa at the AGM on 21 September 2010.

Dot joined the Botanical Society 1977 - whilst living abroad - and started work as a volunteer at Kirstenbosch in 1986 on her return to South Africa. Dot attained Gold Badge Volunteer status in 2000 when the Volunteer Programmes at Kirstenbosch were formalised under the Kirstenbosch Branch. She served on the Kirstenbosch Branch committee from September 1994 until May 2004.

Her many volunteer activities include assisting at the BotSoc Bookshop, assisting with the annual pollination of *Strelitzia* species in the Gardens, working with the Disa collection housed at Kirstenbosch and overseeing all volunteer groups active in the Collections Nursery. She is actively involved in the Kirstenbosch Branch/BotSoc walking groups and as a Garden Guide she conducts free tours through the Gardens. She also makes herself available to lead the many seasonal tourist groups pre-booked with Kirstenbosch. Dot is the leader of the Garden Guides, organising their monthly meetings and the monthly roster for the daily free garden walks led by the Garden Guides. She was a principal contributor to the Garden Guides training manual comprising some 300 pages of the history, flora, fauna, mountain legends and much more. She is part of the admin team which is responsible for the organisation of the annual Kirstenbosch Garden Fair.

The dedication and passion that Dot has shown for the Society and its activities over the past 24 years is unquantifiable and her quiet leadership and wide involvement throughout has been an inspiration to all with whom she comes in contact. She is a volunteer who can always be relied upon, whatever the occasion, to serve the Society with grace, eloquence and conviction.

Kirstenbosch Craft Market

Sunday 26 September 2010 was the first market of the summer season and as luck would have it, the heavens opened at 11h10, but many crafters stuck it out and had good sales. The 31 October market was the busiest market we have experienced in the 18 years that the market has been operating. Lots of customers, lots of very happy crafters! Capetonians know to do their Christmas shopping early and one of the best places to do so is at the Kirstenbosch craft market. The November and two December markets were equally busy.

We are always delighted when visitors tell us how much they appreciate the high standard of crafts on sale, as well as the relaxing vibe, and best of all, proceeds from stall rentals go to such a very worthy cause - improvements to Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, a world heritage site.

Dates for 2011 are (always Sunday): 30 January; 27 February; 27 March; 24 April; 29 May; (closed June, July and August); 25 September; 30 October; 27 November; 11 and 18 December. Hours are 09h00 to 15h00. The market is situated at the stone cottage grounds, corner Kirstenbosch and Rhodes Drives, Newlands, diagonally opposite the main entrance to Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

Tessa van Rooyen, Convener - Kirstenbosch Craft Market

Tel. 021 697-2853; Email: tessnic@iburst.co.za

Kirstenbosch Garden Fair: Saturday and Sunday 19 & 20 March 2011 09h00-16h00

The Botanical Society's 36th annual Garden Fair and indigenous plant sale will be held at the Stone Cottages, corner of Rhodes and Kirstenbosch Drives, opposite the main entrance to Kirstenbosch Gardens.

This annual fundraising event supports Kirstenbosch development projects and is a showcase for South Africa's indigenous flora especially grown to offer gardeners a unique opportunity to acquire a wide range (some 500+ species) of trees, Proteas, shrubs, Buchus, herbaceous perennials, succulents, Ericas, Restios, bulbs, Cycads, etc. and other rare and unusual plants for collectors.

"Fynbos & companion plants" will be the theme around which the Demonstration Garden will be designed and set up by Kirstenbosch horticulturists who will be on hand - wearing orange peak caps - throughout the Fair to offer advice and assistance. Exhibitors will offer garden-related products and services, refreshments will be available at the Tea Garden under the oak trees, and there will be musical performances on both days of the Fair. Remember to bring your own carrier bags and/or wheelbarrow.

The catalogue of plants on sale will be available from early March at the cost of R10 from the Botanical Society Bookshops at both the Visitors' and Garden Centres, Kirstenbosch Gardens, and from the Kirstenbosch Branch office, Stone Cottage no. 1, Kirstenbosch Drive, Newlands. Visit our website www.botanicalsociety.org.za for the current plant availability list.

Please volunteer for the Garden Fair!

We would really appreciate help from our members at this major fundraising event of the year. No experience needed - just a pair of willing hands to help for a couple of hours. You will receive explanatory notes about the duty you have chosen and will have great fun. If you are keen and able to help for a few hours on either Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 March, please complete and return the attached volunteer form.

Projects funded by Kirstenbosch Branch

The last quarter of the year has been an eventful one for the branch and we are very excited about the projects we have committed to for 2011. The branch will be supporting six month horticultural training for four students plus a one year horticultural internship for two students. These students will be mentored in the field of botanical horticulture and research by Kirstenbosch staff.

Furthermore we are supporting a Nature Conservation student, who will be trained by Kirstenbosch staff in practical application and theoretical principles as an introduction to a career in conservation.

We are very proud to be able to financially support the City of Cape Town who in recognition of the International Year of Biodiversity, and in collaboration with their partners has produced a set of *Cape Town's Unique Biodiversity* posters. **Cape Town's biodiversity is in crisis;** and by providing information to high school teachers in

geography and biology by means of these posters they hope to empower people to do something about it. The posters present information on our endemic and highly threatened vegetation types and other species. A series of fact sheets on vegetation types and species is available on their website www.capetown.gov.za/environment.

There are many requests for funding presented to the branch and in our deliberations we always adhere to our mission:

‘To win the hearts, minds and material support of individuals and organisations, wherever they may be for the conservation, cultivation and wise use of the indigenous flora and vegetation of southern Africa’.

Thank you for your ongoing support that enables us to carry out this mission.

The Botanical Society Bookshops at Kirstenbosch:

The following books are available at the Botanical Society bookshops at the Visitors’ Centre (Gate 1) and the Garden Centre (Gate 2):

***Bring Nature back to your Garden - Eastern & Northern Edition* by Charles & Julia Botha**

A second fully revised edition of the book *Bring Nature back to your Garden*. A splendid book, well researched, well illustrated, it opens a whole new world for city slickers who still want to commune with nature. **Price: R165.00**

***Plants of the Klein Karoo* by Jan Vlok & Anne Lise Schutte-Vlok**

This book reveals some 1450 of the almost 3200 species known to occur in the Klein Karoo. Short descriptions and details are given for each plant. Furthermore about 1 000 of the illustrated species are widespread, as they also occur westwards to the Cederberg Mountains and eastwards to the Eastern Cape. The CD included allows habitat types to be identified and has 2021 photographs of some 1500 species. **Price: R300.00**

***Succulent Flora of Southern Africa - Revised Edition* by Doreen Court**

This book, first published in 1981 and revised in 2000, is a classic, authoritative botanical reference, which has long served as a guide for academics and lay enthusiasts alike. This third edition has a revised, extended text that observes recent taxonomic advances and the publication of new species. **Price: R320.00**

***Soils of South Africa* by Martin Fey**

This is the first book in seventy years that provides a comprehensive account of South African soils. The book arranges more than seventy soil forms into fourteen groups and then provides, for each group:

- maps showing their distribution and abundance throughout South Africa
- descriptions of morphological, chemical and physical properties
- a detailed account of classification and its correlation with international systems
- a discussion of soil genesis which includes a review of relevant research papers
- illustrative examples of soil profiles with analytical data and accompanying interpretation
- an appraisal of soil quality from a land use perspective as well as for its ecological significance. **Price: R220.00**

Also available: 2011 Botanical Society of South Africa Calendars. The artist is gold award winner, Lynda de Wet.

Bookshop enquiries: tel 021 762-1621/021 762- 6466; fax 021 762-0923
email: kbranch@botanicalsociety.org.za or website www.botanicalsociety.org.za

Events at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden:

The Silvertree Restaurant

The Silvertree Restaurant offers a 10% discount to Botanical Society Members. For more information contact them on 021 762-9585.

Old Mutual Kirstenbosch Summer Sunset Concerts

Kirstenbosch Summer Sunset Concerts are a fantastic way to spend a Sunday afternoon in Cape Town. Pack a delicious picnic basket, bring along friends and family and find a spot on the Kirstenbosch slopes. The concerts are very popular so get there early to ensure you get a good spot. While waiting for the concert to begin enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the world famous garden.

For tickets phone 021 761 2866/021 799 8782, or buy online at www.webtickets.co.za.
On Sundays tickets will be available at all three entrances.

Concerts from 17h30-19h00. Concert lawn gates open at 16h00.

30 Jan 2011 [Lira](#)

06 Feb 2011 [Isochronus and Kidofdoom](#)

13 Feb 2011 [Zebra & Giraffe](#)

20 Feb 2011 [Jesse Clegg](#)

27 Feb 2011 [Loyiso with Chad Saaiman](#)

06 Mar 2011 [Goldfish](#)

13 Mar 2011 [Jamali](#)

20 Mar 2011 [RJ Benjamin featuring Slikour](#)

27 Mar 2011 [The Cape Philharmonic Orchestra](#)

03 Apr 2011 [aKING](#)

Wednesday Talks at Kirstenbosch

Presented by Room to Grow in the Sanlam Hall at 10h30

02 Feb [Spring Bulbs in Armenia](#)

Dr John Manning, Research Botanist,
Compton, Herbarium, Kirstenbosch Garden

16 Feb	Award Winning Gardens	Brett Chilcott, Designer, Roomtogrow
02 Mar	The Seasons of Kirstenbosch	Alice Notten, Interpretive Officer, Kirstenbosch
16 Mar	Indigenous Cut Flowers	Linda Keevy, Heaven Scent Nursery, Elgin
30 Mar	Eat your Garden	Jenny Louw, Earth Artist
13 Apr	Floral Arrangements for the Home	Emmi Pabst, President, SA Flower Union
04 May	Landscaped Gardens in the Boland	Natie Ferreira, Pink Geranium Nursery, Franschhoek
18 May	Fragrant Plants in Your Garden	Morne Faulhamer, Nurseryman and Radio Personality
01 Jun	Cave Exploration and Discovery in the Western Cape	Anthony Hitchcock, Research Horticulturist, Kirstenbosch
15 Jun	Chelsea 2011	David Davidson, Award Winning Designer
29 Jun	TBA	

Enquiries: Cathy Abbott 021 465-6440/072 2012535; cathya@wol.co.za

Please note that this programme is subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.

Kirstenbosch Branch Walks: January to March 2011

Bring wind- and waterproof clothing, adequate water and sunscreen when participating in walks.

Sat 29 January Botanical Ramble. Please phone leaders Jenny and Peter Ryan 021 761 4927 or Liz Barnett 021 531 8605 for details.

Sun 6 February Chapman's Peak circuit. Meet at 08h00 at the last parking spot on the left before reaching the highest point of Chapman's Peak drive. From there it is a walk up to the nek between Chapman's Peak and Noordhoek Peak. Thereafter follow the contour path to Blackburn Ravine and down to the fort. Cars will have to be collected from the start of the walk. Moderately strenuous. Duration 3 hours. Leaders: Tim Attwell 021 780 1732, Liz Barnett 021 531 8605, Ray Green 021 683 5249, Margaret Herron 021 685 5579.

Wed 16 February Midweek Walk. A strenuous hike up Skeleton Gorge to the Aquaduct to see the Red Disas on Table Mountain. Meet at 07h30 at Rycroft Gate for a 6 hour walk. Bring lunch as well as a snack. Leaders: Di Franklin 021 712 9830, Jean Stephenson 021 531 7468, Heidi Timm 021 671 0726, Margaret Kahle 021 762 3170.

Fri 18 February Annual Moonlight Walk, Kirstenbosch Garden. Meet at 19h00 at the steps outside Sanlam Hall, next to the Tea Room (Gate 2). Bring a picnic. Enquiries: Catherine Gribble 021 671 5468.

Sun 20 February Myburgh's Ravine/Judas Peak. Meet at 08h00 at the Suikerbossie Parking area. Walk along the contour path to Myburgh's Ravine. Ascend up Myburgh's to see the red disas. Descend down Hout Bay corner. Strenuous. Duration 6 hours. Leaders: Dirk Muller 021 762 2473, Pat and Tony Rebelo 021 712 7816, Ann MacGregor

021 785 7276, Bruce Mackenzie 021 531 1777, Frans Viljoen 021 531 4596, Margaret Kahle 021 762 3170.

Sat 26 February Botanical Ramble. Please phone leaders Jenny and Peter Ryan 021 761 4927 or Liz Barnett 021 531 8605 for details.

Sun 6 March Echo Valley/Spes Bona Kloof. Meet at the Boyes Drive turnoff in Lakeside at 08h00. Duration 3 to 4 hours. Moderately strenuous. Leaders: Adre Marshall 021 762 1943, Gisela Mittendorf 021 422 1394, Jean Stephenson 021 531 7468, Jennetta Tilney 021 788 7061.

Wed 16 March Midweek Walk. A morning walk – Silvermine – Waterfall side – to St. James Peak. Meet 08h00 in the parking area on the left at the top of Ou Kaapse Weg travelling towards Noordhoek. Leaders Moiragh Girdwood 021 671 6890, Teresa Raposo 021 674 2874, Jane von Witt 021 683 9822, Sibyl Morris 021 712 4150.

Sat 19 to Sun 20 March Kirstenbosch Garden Fair and indigenous plant sale at the Stone Cottage grounds from 09h00-16h00. Enquiries: Catherine Gribble 021 671 5468.

Sun 27 March Cecilia Waterfall. Meet at the Cecilia Forest Parking area opposite the Hohenort turnoff at 08h00. Moderately strenuous. Duration 3 hours. Leaders: Dirk Muller 021 762 2473, Rory Gilmore 021 712 1516, Jenny Hawkins 072 2340220, Denise Moody 021 683 4745, Glenda Moore 021 674 1891.

Contributions or suggestions for our newsletter are always welcome. If you have any news or information you think is relevant, we look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

Catherine Gribble
Kirstenbosch Branch Secretary